

February 19, 2003

Help Restore Common Sense To American Immigration Policies



Dear Colleague,

The age of mass immigration began in 1965, with legislation that dramatically increased the number of immigrants allowed into America each year. As a nation of immigrants, each of us can trace our roots to another country, but it is not correct to argue that today's immigration level is comparable to traditional levels.

Between 1800 and 1965, the annual number of people admitted as immigrants averaged about 200,000. Since 1990, that number has been over ONE MILLION - and that doesn't count illegal immigrants. Over 30 million people have been added to our population since 1970 as a result of both legal and illegal immigration. The Census Bureau projects that the population will grow to over 570 million by 2040.

The U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform, commonly known as the Jordan Commission, for Representative Barbara Jordan, recommended a substantial reduction in annual legal immigration flows into the country. The commission recommended an immediate reduction to 450,000 people per year, with additional gradual reductions each year until the level fell to closer to 250,000 per year. Unfortunately, the Congress did not listen to the recommendations of the late civil-rights hero, and we are beginning to see the consequences.

I plan to introduce legislation to restore a more realistic cap on the number of immigrants allowed to enter the country each year, reflective of the recommendation of the Jordan Commission. The text will be identical to legislation I introduced in the 107th Congress (H.R. 2712), to do the same thing.

Please contact Josh Mecham at x. 57882 to become an original cosponsor.

Sincerely,

Tom Tancredo
Member of Congress

Deadline: COB February 25, 2003